

DEC 11 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Susumu HASHIMOTO, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/659,299

GAU:

FILED: September 11, 2003

EXAMINER:

FOR: MAGNETORESISTANCE EFFECT ELEMENT, MAGNETIC HEAD, AND MAGNETIC REPRODUCING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.

A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.

A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

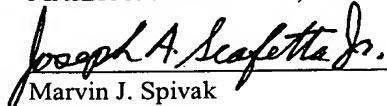
Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


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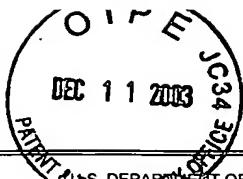
LIST OF RELATED CASES

| <u>Docket Number</u> | <u>Serial or Patent Number</u> | <u>Filing or Issue Date</u> | <u>Inventor/Applicant</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 213589US2 RD | 09/944,075 | 09/04/01 | FUKUZAWA et al. |
| 235998US0 TTCRD | 10/400,638 | 03/28/03 | KOUI et al. |
| 242589US2 TTCRD* | 10/659,299 | 09/11/03 | HASHIMOTO et al. |

*Present Application; listed for information

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Form PTO 1449
(Modified)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY DOCKET NO.
242589US2TTCRDSERIAL NO.
10/659,299

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

APPLICANT

Susumu HASHIMOTO, et al.

FILING DATE

September 11, 2003

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB CLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|------------------|--|-----------------|------------|---------------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| AA | | 5,715,121 | 02/03/1998 | H. SAKAKIMA, et al. | | | |
| AB | | | | | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | TRANSLATION |
|----|--|-----------------|------|---------|-------------|
| | | | | | YES NO |
| AO | | | | | |
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| AW | | |
| AX | | |
| AY | | |
| AZ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional References sheet(s) attached |

Examiner

Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.